

Introduction

We've seen a lot of job seekers pass through the Career Transition Center. Many have been successful in finding their next place in the universe, but some of them get stuck for a little while in their search. They apply for lots of jobs, but never get hired.

So, we have been studying that phenomena, trying to figure out why some get stuck. The reasons are many. They can have perfect resumes. Their career history can be impressive. Their education and credentials can be more than adequate. What bogs them down? Why do some colleagues move ahead?



This article will outline a few of the possibilities that have occurred to us, but we do so with a few reservations.

First, in this article we are taking a rather light approach to a subject that can be very serious. So, here at the beginning we ask your forgiveness for our facetiousness. Sometimes humor makes a tough observation easier to take, but sometimes it trivializes it. Please be assured that our intentions are definitely the former, not the latter.

Second, there are lots of reasons for getting stuck. The reasons are always very individual. We offer these possibilities for your consideration. If you are stuck in your job search and one or more of these possibilities make you cringe in self-recognition, then you might want to re-evaluate your job search strategy. You might even want to try one of the possible "remedies" we are suggesting to help get you unstuck. But again, solutions are unique to every individual. We would like to help to counsel with you in person, via telephone, or via e-mail on finding a possible solution for you.

Finally, only one of us is a psychologist and none of us is claiming any "Dr. Phil" expertise. This isn't an attempt to psychoanalyze or understand anyone's deep, hidden motives and desires. We are only reporting on trends we have observed in our clients from the foreign affairs agencies during more than 50 collective years of career counseling work. And we do this in hopes that we – and you – can learn some preventive techniques from these trends.

Notes from Academe

We do, however, have two PhDs on staff who – as PhDs are prone to do – want to start by referring you to the experts in the field. Lucky for us, our two PhDs are referring us to William Bridges who has actually produced some helpful guidance for people leaving longtime employment – guidance that might help keep our clients from getting stuck.

DON'T LET YOUR JOB SEARCH BECOME A SAD COUNTRY SONG

- Written by the CTC Staff

